

HB 2094 -- PUBLIC DEFENDERS

SPONSOR: Chipman

This bill repeals a provision that requires the state public defender director to contract for legal services with private attorneys on a case-by-case basis, and specifies the director must contract out for legal services with private attorneys for all felony cases, except class A or B felony cases, all misdemeanor cases, all traffic cases, and all probation violation cases. The Office of Administration is required to handle the bidding process for these contracts, and the contracts must be awarded through a competitive bidding process.

The bill specifies the director must provide legal services to an eligible person who is convicted of a class A or B felony, and repeals provisions that specify other classes of individuals who must be given legal services.

The director is required to contract out for legal service with private attorneys the direct appeals of any cases handled by public defenders. Legal services must not be provided, and the director must not contract out for legal services, for certain specified cases.

This bill is similar to HB 215 (2013).